

Claim(s)

What is claimed is:

- 9/17
- 5
1. A document for an electronic catalog protocol, comprising:  
a first portion, the first portion having at least one method information selected from ordering method information and payment method information;  
a second portion, the second portion having at least one entry selected from an offer to sell and an offer to buy; and  
a third portion, the third portion having security information, the security information configured with the at least one entry selected and at least one method information selected.
  2. A document of claim 1, wherein the portions are capable of being distributed to a ~~plurality of servers~~
  3. A document of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first, second and third portions has address information, the address information configured to permit remote access to the at least one portion having address information.
  4. A document of claim 1, wherein the document permits the user to select between URL links and in-line data for presentation of multimedia content.
  5. A document of claim 1, wherein the third portion includes a digital signature.
  6. A document of claim 5, wherein the digital signature is a private key signature that corresponds to a public key.

7. A document of claim 1, wherein elements of electronic catalog documents of different sources can be at least one of integrated, aggregated, assembled and disassembled to form a modified electronic catalog document.

*Part 327*  
8. A document of claim 7, wherein authenticity an element of a modified electronic catalog document is verifiable.

*Part 327*  
9. A computer program for verifying authenticity of an electronic catalog, comprising:  
a document type definition for an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body, wherein the document type definition permits distribution of elements of an electronic catalog document;

5 a digital signature included in the footer of the electronic catalog; and  
signature verification software for verifying the authenticity of the electronic catalog.

10. A computer program for updating an electronic catalog, comprising:  
a document type definition for an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body, wherein the document type definition permits distribution of elements of an electronic catalog document;

5 a parser for reading the elements of the electronic catalog; and  
update software for updating the elements of the electronic catalog according to results obtained from the parser.

*Part 327*  
11. A computer program of claim 10, wherein the parser classifies elements according to time-stamps included therein, and wherein the update software deletes items which have

expired.

12. A computer program of claim 10, wherein the parser classifies elements as either modified or unmodified and wherein the update software modified items which are identified as modified.

13. A computer program according to claim 10, further comprising:  
signature software for signing the updated electronic catalog.

14. A computer program for annotation of an electronic catalog, comprising:  
a document type definition for an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body, wherein the document type definition permits distribution of elements of an electronic catalog document;

5 at least one electronic catalog source document according to the document type definition; and

at least one compound document according to the document type definition, wherein the compound document encloses the electronic catalog source document and includes annotation sections which refer to entries in the electronic catalog source document.

15. A computer program of claim 14, further comprising:  
a digital signature for verification of the compound document, wherein verification of the compound document does not prevent verification of the authenticity of the electronic catalog source document.

16. A computer program for assisting purchases and sales of a plurality of items according to a plurality of transaction types, comprising:

a document type definition for an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body, wherein the document type definition permits distribution of elements of an electronic catalog document; and

a sales-model tag included in the header, for specifying the type of transaction for which the electronic catalog will be used.

17. A computer program of claim 16, wherein the sales-model tag supports at least one of one-to-one, many-to-one and one-to-many sales models.

18. A computer program of claim 16, wherein the sales model tag supports one-to-one, many-to-one and one-to-many sales models.

19. A computer-based repository for electronic catalog documents, comprising:

a document type definition for an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body, wherein the document type definition permits distribution of elements of an electronic catalog document;

a location in memory of a computer for storing electronic catalog documents that are established according to the document type definition; and

database software for storing electronic catalog documents in memory and for retrieving electronic catalog documents from memory.

20. A computer-based method of providing an electronic catalog, comprising:

providing a document type definition for an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer and a body, wherein the document type definition permits distribution of elements of an electronic catalog document.

21. A method of claim 1, further comprising:  
distributing elements of an electronic catalog document to a plurality of servers.

22. A method of claim 21, wherein the distribution of elements is via URL links.

23. A method of claim 20, wherein the definition permits the user to select between URL links and in-line data for presentation of multimedia content.

24. A method of claim 20, further comprising:  
providing a digital signature in the footer of an electronic catalog document.

25. A method of claim 24, wherein the digital signature is a private key signature that corresponds to a public key.

26. A method of claim 20, further comprising:  
integrating elements of a plurality of electronic catalog documents to provide an integrated electronic catalog document.

27. A method of claim 26, further comprising:  
providing for verification of the authenticity of an integrated electronic catalog

~~document.~~

28. A method of claim 20, further comprising:

assembling a plurality of electronic catalog document elements to provide an assembled electronic catalog document.

29. A method of claim 28, further comprising:

providing for verification of the authenticity of an assembled electronic catalog document.

30. A method of claim 20, further comprising: aggregating a plurality of electronic catalog documents to provide an aggregated electronic catalog document.

31. A method of claim 30, further comprising:

providing for verification of the authenticity of an aggregated electronic catalog document.

32. A method of claim 20, further comprising:

disassembling an electronic catalog document to provide a disassembled electronic catalog document.

33. A method of claim 32, further comprising:

providing for verification of the authenticity of a disassembled electronic catalog document.

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34. A computer-based method for verifying the authenticity of an electronic catalog, comprising:

establishing a document type definition for an electronic catalog document, including a header, a footer, and a body, wherein the document type definition permits distribution of elements of an electronic catalog document;

including a digital signature in the footer of the electronic catalog; and

providing verification software for verifying the authenticity of the electronic catalog document.

35. A computer-based method for updating an electronic catalog, comprising:

establishing a document type definition for an electronic catalog document, including a header, a footer, and a body, wherein the document type definition permits distribution of elements of an electronic catalog document;

providing a parser for reading the elements of the electronic catalog; and

providing update software for updating the electronic catalog document according to output from the parser

36. A computer-based method of claim 35, wherein the elements of the electronic catalog document include time-stamps, wherein the parser reads the time-stamps, and wherein the update software deletes expired elements of the electronic catalog document based on the time-stamps.

37. A computer-based method of claim 35, wherein the elements of an electronic catalog document include an indication whether the elements have been modified, wherein the parser

reads the indication, and wherein the update software produces a modified electronic catalog document based on the output from the parser.

38. A computer-based method of claim 35, further comprising:  
providing signature software for signing an updated electronic catalog.

39. A computer-based method for annotation of an electronic catalog, comprising:  
establishing a document type definition for an electronic catalog, including a header,  
a footer, and a body, wherein the document type definition permits distribution of elements  
of an electronic catalog document;

providing at least one electronic catalog source document according to the document  
type definition; and

providing at least one compound document according to the document type  
definition, wherein the compound document encloses the electronic catalog source document  
and includes annotation sections which refer to entries in the electronic catalog source  
document.

40. A computer-based method of claim 38, comprising:

providing a digital signature for verification of the compound document, wherein  
verification of the compound document does not prevent verification of the authenticity of  
the electronic catalog source document.

41. A computer-based method for assisting purchases and sales of a plurality of items  
according to a plurality of transaction types, comprising:



5 establishing a document type definition for an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body, wherein the document type definition permits distribution of elements of an electronic catalog document; and

*Auth AS* providing a sales-model tag included in the header, for specifying the type of transaction for which the electronic catalog will be used.

42. A computer-based method claim 41, wherein the sales-model tag supports at least one of one-to-one, many-to-one and one-to-many sales models.

43. A computer-based method of claim 41, wherein the sales model tag supports all of one-to-one, many-to-one and one-to-many sales models.

*Auth AS* 44. A computer-based method of storing electronic documents, comprising:  
establishing a document type definition for an electronic catalog, including a header, a footer, and a body, wherein the document type definition permits distribution of elements of an electronic catalog document;

5 providing a location in memory of a computer for storing electronic catalog documents that are established according to the document type definition; and

providing database software for storing electronic catalog documents in memory and for retrieving electronic catalog documents from memory.